

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

In response to a participation application from a receiver host, the receiver host capable of participating in a multicast group is registered in a user authentication server in advance, if an IGMP membership report indicating a participation request is transmitted to a router from the receiver host, the receiver host is authenticated based on information in this report and a registration content of the user authentication server, and if the receiver host is authenticated, the receiver host is accepted to participate in the multicast group within accepted time, whereby a user can be accurately authenticated while a function of a receiver-side host remains as it is.